

MAYOR PLEDGES HIS SUPPORT FOR PLAYGROUNDS AND SOCIAL CENTERS

Plan For Establishing Recreation Parks Throughout City Is Outlined by Subcommittee and Estimated Cost of the Entire Project Submitted by T. S. Settle.

MAYOR C. E. KELLY pledged his support to the recreation system proposed by the social survey committee of the chamber of commerce, at a meeting of the directors Monday afternoon in the directors' room of the chamber of commerce building. The meeting was held to submit to the general committee the recommendations drawn up by the subcommittee to be presented to the mayor and city council in favor of the establishment of properly supervised recreation grounds by the city for the people of El Paso. R. F. Burgess presided at the meeting.

Mayor Kelly said: "I am heartily in favor of and will heartily support the movement for supervised playgrounds and parks. A city cannot have too many parks. I am willing to go on record as giving my endorsement in favor of supervised playgrounds, although I cannot say just how the city can make the appropriation asked for the support of these, but I will say that I will do all in my power to get the means for their support."

Mayor Kelly explained that in preparing the budget for the city for 1915 it was necessary to set a lower tax rate in order to get a greater bond-holding power for the city, and that it would be necessary to vote more bonds for the new high school building, school enlargements, more water system bonds and more sewer bonds. He said that in the improvements contemplated for next year the city park commission was planning to park all the school grounds and that \$10,000 would be available for improvements in Washington park this year. Of this sum \$5,000 remained from last year's appropriation, and an additional \$5,000 is included in this year's budget.

Committee Reports Plan.
The recommendations to the city of fields of the subcommittee, which was composed of Messrs. Olga Kohlberg, Burt Orndorff, C. E. Kelly, Messrs. R. J. Tighe, H. D. Slater, J. J. Connors and R. F. Burgess, acting with T. S. Settle, the field secretary of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, was read by Mr. Settle.

The plan offered is that a municipally supported and municipally operated department of recreation be established by the city, to create, conduct and supervise playgrounds, public baths, recreation centers, children's gardens, concerts and other entertain-

ments and activities providing proper recreation for the people of the city. This department is to be under an expert supervisor and conducted under the board of education. It is proposed that an adequately supervised playground should be established upon each of the 12 grammar school grounds, to be conducted for the use of all the children, youths and adults of the community in which the school is located, as the operation of these recreation centers would place a playground within half a mile of every man, woman and child in El Paso.

Wading Pools for Children.
In addition to the school playgrounds, which would be equipped with apparatus, the use of the parks for certain purposes is suggested. In the Bailey school neighborhood, the apparatus for the children's playground, part of which has already been installed by the school patrons, will be available. Houston square park would be used for hand concerts or story telling for the children, and the unused fountain bed be filled with water for a wading pool in the summer for the children.

The former Catholic Athletic association grounds, which having been leased by the school board for the high school gymnasium, would provide a place for baseball and football games and similar sports, with tennis courts for the older people, and the tennis courts in the high school grounds would be open to the use of the public.

In the Vilas school neighborhood the apparatus for the playground would be upon the school grounds, but Mundy park, near by, could be used for the story hours and a portion of the wading pool be converted into a rockery for the children.

Will Not Interfere With Parks.
At Washington park the city council has already planned the reopening of the swimming pool and the committee endorsed the action. In no way would the establishment of these playgrounds displace the present parks, whose plots of green grass and trees form such attractive spots during the summer time, but by bringing added attractions to the parks it would increase the use of them by the public. In the San Jacinto school neighborhood, in addition to the use of the school grounds, the offer of the play field near 17 in Cotton addition would afford a place for games and sports, and a similar arrangement in connection with the Aoy school was proposed.

Supervision of Parks.
Besides the use of the school yards as municipally supervised playgrounds, the committee recommended the operation of social centers in connection with night schools, one on the south side of the city and one on the north side of the city to be used five nights in the week during the winter, and the use of the other 10 schools as social centers for public meetings and entertainments at least once a month during the winter, all of these entertainments and recreational activities to be arranged with the cooperation of private organizations and public spirited citizens.

Estimated Cost of Project.
Following the outline of the recreation system, Mr. Settle presented the estimated cost of the project and the

proposed budget for the recreation system, which follows:

Supervision	Perishable Supplies
Aoy	\$450.00
Alamo	\$250.00
Bailey	\$450.00
Beall	\$450.00
Lamar	\$450.00
San Jacinto	\$450.00
Alta Vista	\$250.00
Franklin	\$250.00
Highland Park	\$250.00
Supervision	\$250.00
Vilas	\$250.00
Douglas	\$250.00

Permanent equipment, furnished in part by neighborhood and school, \$1450.
Operation of summer playgrounds:

School—Supervision	Perishable Supplies
Washington Park	\$800.00
Aoy school	700.00
Bailey school	700.00
Houston park	700.00
Lamar school	700.00
Vilas school	700.00
Mundy park	700.00
Alta Vista Sch.	700.00
Franklin school	700.00
Beall school	700.00
San Jacinto Sch.	700.00
High Park Sch.	700.00
Douglas Sch.	700.00

Permanent equipment, \$1175.
Operation of public school centers:

Two social centers operated in connection with the school system five nights per week, Nov. 1 to April 1; supervision, \$125; janitor, \$50; supplies, \$25; total, \$200.00	\$200.00
Ten social centers operated one night per month from Nov. 1 to April 1; supervision, \$125; janitor, \$50; supplies, \$25; total, \$200.00	\$200.00

Salary supervisor recreation, not to exceed

Permanent equipment, moving, picture outfit, etc.

Grand total

The El Paso school buildings to be utilized by the proposed recreation system, with Washington park, Houston square and Mundy park are rated at an estimated value of \$88,775.

Following the report there was a general discussion of the recommendations offered. The necessity of having an expert supervisor to have the entire recreation system in hand was especially emphasized.

Mr. Settle said: "The easiest way to kill the recreation system would be to put an incompetent man in charge. At the start particularly, a mighty well trained man must be the director."

This expression was also endorsed by R. J. Tighe, the superintendent of schools, who said it would be better to economize in other ways than to get a cheap supervisor, who might be inadequate for the need.

Wm. J. Moran spoke of the increased use of parks in other cities by the installation of features, making the parks really used by the people, instead of being the looking place of idlers.

R. F. Burgess talked on proper supervision of the playgrounds being one of the principal points connected with the success of the recreation system, having that this was most necessary in order to have the parents willing to send and encourage their children to go to the playgrounds.

After considerable discussion it was

ELFERS TAKES SLAM AT T. LEA

Says He Neither Likes Tom Nor His Methods of Doing Charity Work.

"They say we are going to have Tom Lea to run for the mayor's office on the opposition ticket," said E. B. Elfers at a meeting of the Young Men's Democratic club Monday night. "Well, I don't like Tom Lea and, therefore, I don't like to talk about him. But did any of you ever hear of Tom Lea doing a charitable act that was not written up in the newspapers? I've seen him written up for a column for giving 50 cents to a Mexican."

"A man recently told me, and he was an out of town man who didn't care one way or the other that the thing he liked about mayor Kelly was that he performed his work and his charity without ostentation. What we want are men who are broad and who do not flaunt their charity."

Owing to the bad weather, the meeting was not as well attended as usual, but the club rooms were filled when the speaking began. Most of the addresses were made by speakers who have not hitherto been heard from. The meeting was a brief one and the speeches were in strong contrast to the rather fiery addresses that have characterized the past meetings.

Long Tenure of Office.
In the course of his address, Elfers said: "You will hear the same old cry this election of long tenure in office. But has it ever occurred to you that the very foundation of this government is the cornerstone of frequent elections? Long tenure is the best possible proof that the men now in office are honestly and efficiently conducting their offices, and that they have the confidence of the people of El Paso."

"The 'ring' is made up of boosters; the 'anti-ring' is, almost entirely, made up of knockers," said George Armijo. "El Paso has grown from a village to a metropolitan city. It has been the progressive boosters that have done the work. And in nearly every case you will find, and have found, these men with the ring."

"Our victory this spring is assured," said Richard "Battling" Dick. Evans. "We have not a long list of rosy predictions, promises and assertions to offer. We have behind us an actual record of achievement, of progress. The voters know this. They have confidence in the present administration and they will return it with a mandate."

William G. Peiray and Michael Malachy also made brief addresses, both predicting a victory for the "ring" forces. The next meeting of the club will be held Monday night.

decided that, with a few slight alterations, the recommendations should be presented to the mayor and city council coming from the general committee and presented by a committee of three composed of the chairman, R. F. Burgess, and two others to be appointed by him.

The committee then adjourned, subject to call. Those present at the meeting were: Mr. and Mrs. Burt Orndorff, Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Settle, Mrs. Olga Kohlberg, Mrs. Olga Kohlberg, Miss Alice Fitzpatrick, mayor C. E. Kelly, Dr. J. A. Rawlings, Rev. Perry J. Rice, rabbi statement, Zelenka, R. J. Tighe, J. J. Connors, R. F. Burgess, H. D. Slater, Robert Krakauer, Harry Burwell, Wm. J. Moran and W. R. Pearson.

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